

Aleksandar Vučić
Prime Minister of Serbia

Government of the Republic of Serbia
Office of Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic
Nemanjina 11
Belgrade
Serbia

Brussels, 30 September 2014

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) which represents the bars and law societies of 32 member countries and 13 further associate and observer countries, and through them more than 1 million European lawyers.

On 27 June 2014, the CCBE sent a letter to you and to the Minister of Justice of Serbia regarding Serbia's accession to the EU. The CCBE offered at that time our assistance to the Serbian government in the field of justice regarding the impact of accession negotiations on the legal profession. The CCBE believes that our expertise could be helpful to the Serbian authorities, particularly in negotiation process for Chapter 3, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24.

We subsequently received a response from the Assistant Minister of Justice, Čedomir Backović, who welcomed our initiative for assistance. We now look forward to cooperate with the Serbian authorities regarding these issues.

In the meantime, the CCBE has been alerted by our member, the Bar Association of Serbia, which has raised serious concerns regarding recent legislative changes on the work of the notary public, and particularly amendments that introduced the exclusive right for a notary public to draft all real estate contracts, and contracts related to matrimonial law and inheritance law. We were also informed that work and services normally provided by 8500 lawyers of Serbia have been transferred to 94 notaries. We are ourselves concerned that these developments will have an adverse impact on the right of citizens' access to a lawyer.

We will look into these issues in the light of EU law, and we will be happy to provide you with our views regarding this matter.

For your information, I will be in Serbia in the beginning of October to attend a roundtable, organised by the Serbian Bar Association. I will be more than happy to meet with you and the

Minister of Justice of Serbia on this occasion in order to discuss these various issues.

I look forward to hearing from you on our proposal for a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aldo Bulgarelli', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Aldo Bulgarelli
CCBE President

CC: Nikola Selaković
Minister of Justice of Serbia
22-26 Nemanjina St.
Belgrade,
Serbia
kabinet@mpravde.gov.rs